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In the Claims:

1.(previously presented) A process for the preparation of methylaluminium dichloride comprising -the steps of:

(i) reacting, by heating a material of the formula



where R is C₁-C₄ alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and

(ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating,

to give a crude reaction product; and

(iii) optionally, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.

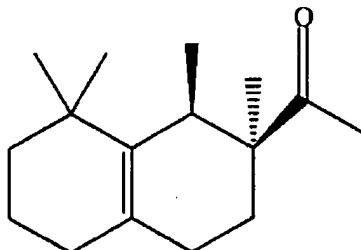
2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, in which the material of the formula R₃Al₂X₃ is selected from methylaluminium sesquiiodide and ethylaluminium sesquibromide.

3. (cancelled)

4.(previously presented) A process according to claim 1 , in which the metallic aluminium is particulate metallic aluminium.

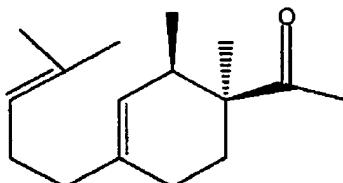
5.(previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of the Formula I

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I

comprising the addition of a compound of Formula II

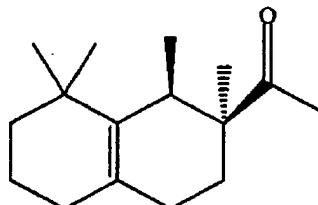


II

to the crude reaction product of a reaction according to Claim 1.

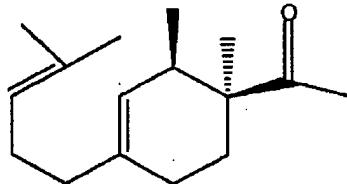
6. (currently amended)

A process for the preparation of a compound of
Formula I



I

by cyclisation of a compound of Formula II



II

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of a reaction mixture according to the steps of:

(i) reacting by heating a material of the formula



where R is C₁-C₄ alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and

(ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating; and

(iii) adding to the mixture a compound of Formula (II) and heating to effect cyclisation of the compound of Formula (II).

7.(new) The process according to claim 6 wherein the mixture containing the compound of Formula (II) are heated to 60° - 70°C.

8.(new) The process according to claim 6 wherein the mixture containing the compound of Formula (II) are heated for about 4 hours.